

40108809



SUPERFUND RECORDS

MEMORANDUM

October 15, 1988

Subject: Big River Tailings, Desloge

From: *Gale* Dale Wright, REED

To: Bob Morby, BIFD  
Kerry Herndon, FREE

MOD 9811196077  
Sheeg R  
Put this on  
agenda for community  
meeting  
Kerry  
BIG RIVER MINE  
NOV 18/12/88  
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I talked to Jim Burris, MDNR, Poplar Bluff Regional Office about the subject site. I told Jim it was a candidate for NPL Update 6 which is tentatively scheduled for December 1988. He asked if I knew what day and I said I couldn't be that definite at this point.

He asked what happened then and I explained that this would be a proposal and public comment would be accepted. I told him the date for a final listing depends on the length of public comment and the extent and many things and I couldn't forecast a date or final vet.

He talked about PR search and I told him it was likely that we would perform a PR search during the time the proposal is pending. In response to his question I explained that further action depended on a number of factors such as availability of resources, degree of the threat when weighed against other sites, etc. I also told him that a notice is required before we spend time and money.

Jim said the state was considering a removal action because actions taken by the contractor had increased the threat of the berms being washed out and causing a major release of tailings into the river. I asked who he had been talking to in Jefferson City and he said Keith Shaidoin and Jim Long. He also said he wanted to discuss the possibility of coordinating a removal action with EPA with Bob Morby and he would probably call Bob tomorrow.

During the conversation, I offered Kerry Herndon as a contact on the state side on the NPL listing action.

After my conversation with Jim, I called Keith. Keith said Jim Burris had called him about the removal action and he had brought Jim Long into the discussion. Burris' concerns apparently stem from a snow fence that he recommended the Fluor Co install and they apparently didn't do it like he wanted. He now believes that surface water generated during a heavy precipitation event would be diverted around the ends of the berms and would cause them to fail, thus releasing the tailings.

Long and Keith told Jim they could order the company to remove and reinstall the fence or the state or EPA would do it as a

removal action. Apparently, Jim B didn't want agency action in the event the company refused and Jim and Keith told him it was serious enough for them to order Fluor, then they'd have to be prepared to follow up. Since then they hadn't heard from him, but he did tell them he was considering calling Bob M. I told Keith that we'd respond to Jim B's questions about NFL status, but we'd tell him that Keith had to be involved in any discussions about removal actions. Keith appreciated that.